Trey Dees

Being a slave was in some way like being an animal. I did a chart on this and I learned different things about this topic. I learned different facts about their marriages, children, the exploitation, their clothing and health. What I learned is that they had a tradition of jumping the broom during their marriage, had frolics and food and had an African American preacher. What I didn’t know was and that was surprising to me was that there was no legal sanctions that supported African American marriages and that as a couple, they had to live with their masters. Things I learned about the children was that children were born while women were still working out in the fields. How Harsh! Exploitation was something new for me but now I have a feeling of what it is. I learned that exploitation of black women disrupted enslaved families. Something also surprising about their clothing was that small children usually went naked, no clothing, during the warm seasons. Their health was very poor seeing that sickle-cell anemia and other diseases were present.

Reading the interviews from former slaves was somewhat a learning process because I learned some things from a person I chose that I didn’t know but knew was possible. It was sad to know that the person I chose really didn’t have a place to sleep. During the winter he slept on the kitchen floor and in the summer he slept on the porch. Also, he was sold as a toddler with his mother and his sisters. He sees his dad from time to time he is sold to another slave owner nearby. He and his family went to a nearby church. “ I went ter church in Monticello”.